

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 04875 211823Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-10 /125 W
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P R 211715Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2200
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 4875

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: CONTACT GROUP MESSAGE TO SOUTH AFRICA

REFS: (A) USUN 3234, (B) STATE 211445

IN A BRIEF MEETING OF THE PRETORIA FIVE THIS MORNING, IT WAS
AGREED THAT GERMAN AMBASSADOR EICK AND I WOULD DELIVER THE MESSAGE
IN REFTELS, SLIGHTLY AMENDED, TO BRAND FOURIE. FOLLOWING IS THE
REPORT WHICH WE SHARED WITH OUR COLLEAGUES AFTER SEEING FOURIE:

1. FRG AND US AMBASSADORS SAW FOURIE AND VAN HEERDEN AT
4 P.M. FOR 20 MINUTES AND DELIVERED THE MESSAGE OF THE FIVE
WESTERN GOVERNMENTS AS FOLLOWS:
BEGIN TEXT OUR FIVE GOVERNMENTS HAVE NOTED WITH SATISFACTION
THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO WELCOME TO NAMIBIA THE
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PAGE 02 PRETOR 04875 211823Z

UNITED NATIONS MISSION LED BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S SPECIAL
REPRESENTATIVE, MR. AHTISAARI, AND THE FULL COOPERATION WHICH IS
BEING EXTENDED TO THEM BY THE ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL AND BY
HIS SERVICES. WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY THESE DEVELOPMENTS AND
FERVENTLY HOPE THAT THEY WILL LEAD IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO THE
FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREED PROPOSAL.
OUR GOVERNMENTS HAVE ALSO TAKEN NOTE WITH CONCERN OF THE

REPORTS OF A NUMBER OF VIOLENT INCIDENTS THAT ARE SAID TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN RECENT DAYS IN THE NORTH OF NAMIBIA. WHILE IN A FORMAL SENSE A CEASEFIRE IS NOT CALLED FOR UNDER THE WESTERN PROPOSAL UNTIL THE PASSAGE OF A FURTHER RESOLUTION BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL, OUR GOVERNMENTS DEEPLY DEPLORE ANY SUCH INCIDENTS, PARTICULARLY AT THIS CRITICAL JUNCTURE. WE WISH TO BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION, IN THIS CONTEXT, THE CALL FOR GENERAL RESTRAINT MADE ON AUGUST 16 BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS. WE STRONGLY SUPPORT THIS CALL AND WE, OURSELVES, ARE ISSUING A SIMILAR APPEAL TO SWAPO AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES. ANY ESCALATION OF VIOLENCE, THROUGH INITIATION OF HOSTILE ACTS OR RETAILATION, CAN ONLY PUT IN JEOPARDY THE INDEPENDENCE PROCESS FOR WHICH WE HAVE ALL WORKED SO LONG AND WHICH, THROUGH YOUR COOPERATION, WE ARE OONFIDENT IN ACHIEVING. END TEXT.

2. FOURIE NOTED THE WORDS "INITIATION" AND "RETALIATION" IN CONNECTION WITH HOSTILE ACTS AND ASKED WHETHER WE EXPECTED THE SAG NOT TO REACT TO SWAPO ATTACKS OF VIOLENCE. HE SAID THE MILITARY ARE FED UP WITH REPEATED ATTACKS FROM BEYOND THE BORDER. WE RESPONDED THAT WE WERE MAKING AN IMPARTIAL APPEAL TO ALL PARTIES AND THAT THE IMPORTANT THING WAS TO EXERCISE UTMOST RESTRAINT DURING THE CRUCIAL PERIOD THAT LIES AHEAD OF US. ALTHOUGH HE PUT SOME EMPHASIS ON THE OBJECTION P.W. BOTHA WOULD HAVE TO OUR REQUEST THAT THERE BE NO RETALIATION, WE HAD THE FEELING THAT HE WAS MAKING A POINT
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PAGE 03 PRETOR 04875 211823Z

PRIMARILY FOR THE RECORD.

3. WE TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS OUR ENCOURAGEMENT AT THE WAY THINGS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN GOING IN WINDHOEK. HE RESPONDED THAT THERE COULD STILL BE SERIOUS PROBLEMS AHEAD, DEPENDING ON AHTISAARI'S APPROACH TO CERTAIN KEY QUESTIONS. HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY THE INDICATION THAT AHTISAARI WOULD NOT SCRAP THE REGISTRATION OF VOTERS ENTIRELY, BECAUSE TO DO SO WOS HAVE MEANT THAT THE SAG COULD NOT ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL. HE ALSO SAID IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT TO HAVE A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE NUMBER AND COMPOSITION OF THE UN MILITARY CON- TINGENT BEFORE THE SAG COULD PERMIT ITS ENTRY INTO THE TERRITORY. HE SAID IT WOULD NOT WORK TO HAVE SOME TROOPS IN PLACE AND THEN HAVE THE UN DETERMINE THAT ADDITIONAL FORCES WOULD BE REQUIRED. WHILE HE DID NOT SAY SO, HE IMPLIED THAT THERE SHOULD BE AN UNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF TROOPS. HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE SAG WOULD EXPECT THESE QUESTIONS TO BE CLEARED UP BEFORE IT COULD ACCEPT A SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION IMPLEMENTING THE PROPOSAL.
EDMONDSON

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